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People's Institute
(New York, N.Y.)

How the people pay their
way

[Brooklyn, N.Y.]

[1914]

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by the People's institute of Brooklyn, 1913-1914.
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HOW THE PEOPLE PAY THEIR WAY



Seven Experiments in Social Centers
in the Public School Buildings
by the People's Institute of Brooklyn
1913-1914

308

Z

Box 110



WILLIAMSBURG SAENGERBUND, SINGING BEFORE ONE OF OUR AUDIENCES. (Commercial High School, Feb. 22, 1914)

HOW THE PEOPLE PAY THEIR WAY

How the people of Brooklyn are themselves financing and carrying on their own cultural and recreative pursuits in seven of their public school buildings;

How thousands of dollars spent annually by the City for public recreation and education may ultimately be saved to the tax-payers through this assumption by the people of these activities;

How a real democracy may be achieved through the mingling of all the people in these common enterprises is the burden of this report.

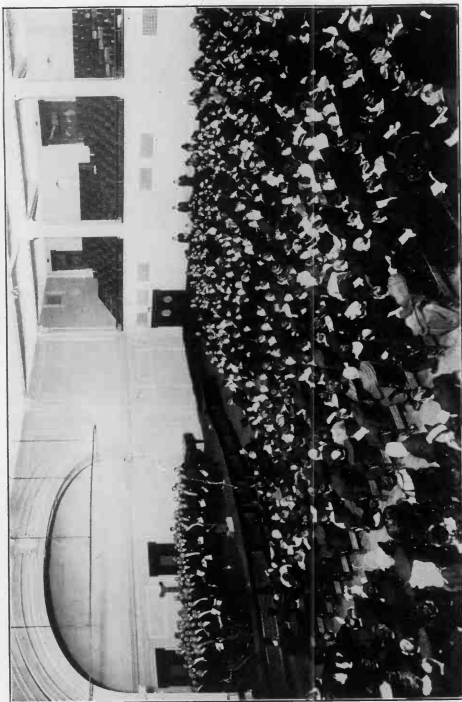
THE SITUATION

That the nickels and dimes now spent casually by the multitude may be diverted for the support of entertainments having a real cultural value in the wholesome environment of our public school buildings, is made evident by the experiments here described.

Music, from that of the string quartet, heretofore regarded as the aristocrat of the concert stage, to vocal and instrumental solos of a grade unknown to the public schools, has been given weekly for eighteen weeks. Toward the cost of this music, \$1,179.68, the audiences have voluntarily contributed \$854.11, leaving a deficit of only \$325.57.

There has been a steady decrease in this deficit yearly; and there is every indication that by another winter the concerts will be self-supporting, becoming entirely a people's enterprise.

For those neighborhoods where a response to classical music could not be expected, but where the appeal of the best light music might be anticipated, motion-picture exhibitions of carefully selected reels have been started, and the strident vaudeville of the five-cent theatre replaced by singers of merit in programs of songs and ballads. Snatches of



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Schumann, Chopin and other masters are heard as incidental piano music, while the pictures are on the screen. Such a center in Bushwick High School, at five cents admission, is crowded weekly and is netting a small profit toward the support of other school activities carried on by the group in charge.

A wealth of personal service hitherto dormant has been enlisted in the opening of the school centers. Business and professional men, wage earners and students are uniting in a common cause in a common meeting-place. Artists of national reputation, inspired by this people's movement, have made it possible for us to secure their talents for our audiences. It was Mr. David Mannes, after a program for violin and piano, who remarked on the attention of the audience through the Brahms sonata which concluded his long program.

Groups are forming in many neighborhoods who propose to undertake the management of these centers, and who plan to develop other activities such as civic forums, orchestral and dramatic clubs, and social dances to compete with the too-often demoralizing public dance halls. Each center is now the potential social center. The saplings we have planted are about to branch out. *Here we face a crisis! Shall these inspired groups, charged with the conduct of our centers, stop in the development of their respective schools short of a complete institution for fellowship and civic advancement?*

If the wealth of social service latent in these groups is to be directed toward the enrichment of the community, a guide must be supplied.

If interested men and women, busy people for the most part, are to be made an effective neighborhood force, they must enjoy the services of a neighborhood organizer. For he it is, who, through a knowledge of each neighborhood, gained by days of study, will put his group in touch with conditions there. He will tell them of the young men whose club meets nightly over the saloon on the corner for lack of a better place, and who, he learns, would gladly transfer their meeting place to the school. He reports upon the disreputable dance halls down the block; and his committee decides to hold dances in the school gymnasium, bound that the neighboring young people shall have a safe and wholesome place to satisfy a perfectly normal desire to dance.

He shall be to the neighborhood exactly what these busy people themselves would be, did their time permit, plus of course, his endowment of training and experience. *Upon our ability to employ such a person hangs the future of our centers. Here is where a gift may be so invested as to redeem many and many a sordid, despairing neighborhood from a hopeless lethargy to a plane of social and civic usefulness.*

THE YEAR'S WORK

BUSHWICK HIGH SCHOOL.

To visualize the progress of the center at Bushwick High School is to describe an upward curve, only at its very beginning falling below the line of self-support. It was with some trepidation that the movement was inaugurated, for success was only to be conjectured. Here was a community unknown, insofar as its response to a call for united neighborhood action might be predetermined.

A loyal and progressive band of citizens was found ready to help us, however, and the spirit manifested by this group, together with the splendid possibilities which the great auditorium in this building offered, led us into one of our most successful and interesting experiments.

On Friday, February 13th, the center was opened for exhibitions of selected motion pictures, with music furnished by artists of a high order, at a charge of five cents admission.

From an attendance of 274 persons the audiences passed the thousand mark. Toward the close of the season the audiences were only limited by the seating capacity. It is estimated that two thousand people were turned away on one occasion.

To convey an idea of the grade of music steadily employed by us here, be it said that one one occasion we were favored with an artist whose recital in Aeolian Hall, New York, only the day before, had attracted a degree of attention from the critics.

A word as to the motion pictures. Our choice of subjects was a large one, only bounded by the limitations of manufacture. We were able on many occasions to show reels known to the trade as "Exclusive," some of which, if shown in commercial houses, would have been widely advertised. Through the co-operation of a practical motion picture operator, we were able at frequent intervals to exhibit reels costing actually more than the remuneration he received. This is chronicled only as another instance of the spirit of help evoked in the opening of the public schools after school hours by private bodies. That this operator would have charged full rates, had this center been in the hands of a city department, must be evident to every reader of this report.

Until the advent of the social center the parks have proven the principal places of recreation frequented by the entire family. It is probable that the promiscuous use of other public gathering places repels practically all but the youthful and boisterous. In the parks there is seclusion, to a degree at least. So too, in a sense, in the social center; for here assemble those having a common knowledge of one another; often and again, real friendship.

Patronage by the whole family has marked the success of the center at Bushwick High School. It was plainly evident that Friday nights were regularly reserved by hundreds of households; fathers, mothers and children attending again and again throughout the winter.

Absorbing the group in charge at this school, the Bushwick-Ridgewood Social Center Committee was formed. Along with the continuance of the weekly concerts and exhibitions of motion pictures, this local group has already started social dancing, orchestral and choral clubs in the school. To our gratification there is a promise of a stable organization to develop a series of activities, creating a complete social center.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES BUSHWICK HIGH SCHOOL

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Expenditures</i>	
Admissions at 5 cents		Cost of music, printing, operator, etc. . .	\$286.50
each	\$302.14	To Treasurer Bushwick-Ridgewood Social Center Committee	15.64
			<u>\$302.14</u>

PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 5

Essential to establishing a successful center is a preliminary study of its neighborhood. Tastes differ with nationality, education and the degree of poverty. What would cause a given neighborhood to flock to the school house would, in another location, spell failure.

To educate a group up to the point of some appreciation of good music is probably possible anywhere, provided the crowd will come to listen. First, however, we must overcome inertia, and a prejudice against the public school house as a place only for children.

With this latter point in mind a center of motion pictures and popular music was opened for the second season at Public School No. 5, Tillary and Bridge Streets. The head worker and the residents of Willoughby House Settlement formed a group charged with the conduct of the venture. A sum, covering the cost of a booth, from Civitas Club, carrying a guarantee against loss, eased the financial burden we were carrying; for progress here was slow at first, notwithstanding some success the preceding winter in awakening a lethargic neighborhood to a degree of concerted effort.

A glance at the statement appended will demonstrate how nearly

the center might be called self-supporting. Those best acquainted with the neighborhood, who know its traits, recognize a victory therein.

Coincident with the giving of motion pictures in the evening at Public School No. 5, with the co-operation of the principal a series of educational reels was given free to the pupils once each week at the close of school. This was paid for from the proceeds of the evening exhibition. A train of possibilities at once presents itself after a season of such experimentation. It is possible now for the principal to select reels to co-ordinate with the prescribed studies. This policy will be pursued rigidly next winter. Thus the motion picture comes into its own as a great educational force. "Philadelphia, the Cradle of Liberty," "Historic Boston," "Washington at Valley Forge,"—who could help learning history? Or an aeroplane flying before your eyes over Europe; peasants are running eagerly to meet it as it alights,—geography, in a form most alluring! Botany, natural history, physics; but little that cannot be taught through the motion picture, and few too backward to learn by this method.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 5

<i>Receipts</i>		<i>Expenditures</i>	
Admissions at 5 cents		Printing, operator, etc. . .	\$341.40
each	\$288.16		
Deficit	53.24		
	<u>\$341.40</u>		

PUBLIC SCHOOL No. 8

At Public School No. 8, Hicks and Middaugh Streets, a center was opened under conditions in many respects similar to those which confronted us at Public School No. 5. But here we experienced an additional handicap; namely, that of an auditorium holding scarcely five hundred people, and arranged so that from many seats the stage could be seen only at an angle. The usual charge of five cents was established.

However, if a crowded auditorium means success, then assuredly our venture here was so crowned. But having in mind the devoted young men who made the conduct of the center their particular task, and recalling their assurances of greater activities to come, we believe that our initiative has been doubly rewarded. With these helpers as the nucleus, we anticipate that the winter of 1914-15 will mark the development of a group, representing the neighborhood, formed to com-

plete with other recreational features, the social center already so promising.

Here too we gave a course of educational motion pictures for the pupils at the close of school.

A gift of a booth from William E. Harmon enabled us to operate in the face of losses incurred during the initiatory period.

In a neighborhood primarily Irish the percentage of family groups attending was large.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 8

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>
Admissions at 5 cents	Printing, operator, etc. \$278.60
each\$271.34	
Deficit 7.26	
<u>\$278.60</u>	

MANUAL TRAINING AND COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOLS

The optimistic note sounded through this report must not be construed as the spirit of boastfulness. Success, as we have tasted it, springs not from our efforts alone, as a committee, but more from the response of the people to a call to democratic action, free from benevolence or bureaucratic domination. To them is the credit due.

Thus proceeding we reach the concerts given for the third season, every Sunday evening, at Commercial High School, and the concerts and forums, opened at Manual Training High School for the second season, every Sunday afternoon.

Sure of the response of the people to music of a class commonly appropriated by the musically elect, the Institute arranged for a season of concerts, choruses, recitals employing string quartets and soloists both vocal and instrumental,—at all times artists of exceptional merit.

As in past seasons, it was decided to make no charge for admission, every person in the audience being given opportunity to contribute what he or she might be able, through the means of a collection taken at each concert.

Indicative of the nature of the music at both schools are the programs which follow. Emphasis is due the fact that, owing solely to their interest, many of the artists either volunteer or modify their rates substantially. Again we ask whether departmental management could evoke this spirit of co-operation; whether domination by the city would not blight this generous help?

More than a word is due the forums which alternated with the concerts at Manual Training High School. The size of the audiences exceeded our imaginings. An auditorium filled from floor to gallery, with as many or more disappointed people lining the curbs outside the building, marked the occasion of the debate between the Rev. Father John L. Belford and the Rev. Mr. Lunn, Socialist ex-mayor of Schenectady. The immense audience was orderly; surprisingly so, for interest ran high and with each speaker appeared a contingent, either faction a large audience in itself.

This occasion is cited to show that the people can be trusted to assemble in an orderly manner in their school buildings to discuss any live topic uppermost in their minds. Though the police were present on the occasion alluded to, it was only to see that fire laws were obeyed and that the crowd demanding admittance, after the hall was filled, was restrained from entering.

It is important to announce that the Park Slope Chapter of the People's Institute of Brooklyn has been formed out of the audience at Manual Training High School. This local group has undertaken the management of the music and forums. It is proposed that the group shall be autonomous, while turning to the parent body for aid in securing artists and speakers, and for what guidance may be needed. It is with genuine gratification that the formation of this chapter is announced by this Institute. We commend this idea to others desiring to establish social centers in the public school buildings. Unaided, inexperienced groups using the school buildings are predestined to complications repeating those we have faced. Our experience is for all to draw upon.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES COMMERCIAL AND MANUAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOLS Manual Training High School

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>
By collections\$456.91	Music, printing, etc. ..\$583.00
Deficit 126.09	
<u>\$583.00</u>	

Commercial High School.

<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>
By collections\$397.20	Music, printing, etc. ..\$596.68
Deficit 199.48	
<u>\$596.68</u>	

SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMS

Commercial High School Sunday Evenings at 8 o'clock

- Nov. 16—Concert by the Kaltenborn String Quartet.
Nov. 23—Concert. Ruth Dudley, violinist; Miss E. Goldsberry, pianist; Miss Fischer, soprano.
Nov. 30—Concert by the Philharmonic Trio.
Dec. 7—Concert by Elsa Fischer Quartet.
Dec. 14—Song Recital and Dramatic Reading.
Jan. 4—Symphony Orchestra, New York Music School Settlement. Conductor, Mr. Edgar Stowell.
Jan. 11—Ruth Dudley Trio.
Jan. 18—Concert, under the direction of Miss Marie Kieckhoefer. Alois Trnka, violinist; Miss Helen Stallings, mezzo-soprano; Albert Mattice, clarinet; Edward Anderson, baritone. Accompanist, Miss Bernadine Kieckhoefer.
Jan. 25—Concert. Salvatore de Stefano, harp; Miss Winifred Tucker, contralto.
Feb. 1—Mme. Grunwald, pianist; Mlle. Kristoffy, soprano.
Feb. 8—Kahn Trio.
Feb. 15—Mr. and Mrs. David Mannes, piano and violin recital.
Feb. 22—Williamsburg Saengerbund.
Mar. 1—Dannreuther String Quartet, assisted by Miss Coates, soprano.
Mar. 8—Concert, under direction of Miss Marie Kieckhoefer. Miss Hazel Collins, soprano; Miss Ruth Deighton, contralto; Mr. T. Morgan Phillips, tenor; Miss Alice Shaw, pianist.
Mar. 15—Olive Meade String Quartet.

Manual Training High School Sunday Afternoons at 3 o'clock

- Nov. 16—Junior Orchestra, Music School Settlement of New York.
Nov. 23—Political Ideals. Speaker: Norman Hapgood.
Nov. 30—Concert by the Tollesfen Trio.
Dec. 7—The Brooklyn of To-Morrow (Progress of the City Plan). Speakers: Edward M. Bassett, Chairman Advisory Committee on Heights of Buildings; Frederick B. Pratt, Committee on the City Plan.
Dec. 14—Organ and Song Recital. Mr. Lawrence J. Munson, Organist.

- Jan. 4—Dannreuther String Quartet, assisted by Miss Lottie Black, contralto.
Jan. 11—Socialism and the Church. Speakers: Rev. Father John L. Belford, Rev. George R. Lunn, former Socialist Mayor of Schenectady.
Jan. 18—Elsa Fischer String Quartet.
Jan. 25—The Working Girl and the Ballot. Speaker: Dr. Anna Howard Shaw.
Feb. 1—Kaltenborn String Quartet.
Feb. 8—Trade Unionism; the Old and the New. Speakers: Rev. John Howard Melish, Dr. Wm. Bohn.
Feb. 15—Manhattan Ladies' Quartet (vocal).
Mar. 1—Olive Meade String Quartet.
Mar. 8—Society and Crime. Speaker: Thomas Mott Osborne.
Mar. 15—Concert, under direction of Nan Wallace McClure.

CONCERT

By the Kaltenborn Quartet of New York City MANUAL TRAINING HIGH SCHOOL

- Sunday Afternoon, Feb. 1st, 1914. at 3 o'clock
Franz Kaltenborn First Violin
Herman Kuhn Second Violin
Max Barr Viola
Max Droge Violoncello
Mr. Kuhn at the Piano

PROGRAM

1. Quartet in B flat major, Op. 18, No. 6.....Beethoven
Allegro con brio
Adagio ma non troppo
Scherzo—Allegro
La Malinconia—Adagio—Allegretto quasi Allegro
2. Violin Solo—
 - a. Nocturne in E. flatChopin
 - b. Hungarian RhapsodyHauserMr. Kaltenborn
3.
 - a. Andantino, Op. 7Kopylow
 - b. Scherzo from E flat major QuartetCherubini
4. Quartet in G majorMozart
Second movement—Romanze—Andante
5. Cello Solo—
 - a. "Le Clavecin"Paulin
 - b. "Unter der Linde"VolkmannMr. Droge

6. a. Quartet in G major, Op. 77, No. 1 Haydn
 Second movement—Adagio
- b. Quartet in A minor, Op. 29 Schubert
 Last movement—Allegro moderato
7. Quartet in C minor, Op. 17, No. 2 Rubinstein
 Last movement—Moderato—Appassionato

RECITAL

By David and Clara Mannes, Violin and Piano

COMMERCIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday Evening, February 15th at 8 o'clock

PROGRAM

- Grieg. (By request) Sonata in F Major, Op. 8
 Allegro Con Brio
 Allegretto Quasi Andantino
 Allegro Molto Vivace
- Godard Adagio Pathetique
 DeBussy En Bateau
 Tenaglia (1600) Aria
 Mozart Menuet
 Cecil Burleigh Indian Sketches (new)
 Brahms Sonata in A major, Op. 100
 Allegro amabile
 Andante tranquillo—Vivace
 Allegretto grazioso (quasi andante)

PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 147

"Pioneers reclaiming the wilderness," might be properly applied to the Social Guild of Williamsburg. Since man made philanthropy there has probably never been a more neglected territory than the field of endeavor selected by these intrepid young men and women.

Surrounding Public School No. 147, at Bushwick Avenue and McKibben Street, is a territory only too closely akin to Rivington Street, Manhattan. Poverty's despotic rule here is swayed. Jew and Gentile swarm the streets, with Jews heavily in the majority. A colony of Italians presses in upon the already congested area.

It remained for some one to reclaim the district. Not from vice, but from an atrophying indifference, bred of poverty. Therefore, an occasion to address the Guild, led to closer relations, and plans to co-operate in an effort to relieve conditions, were consummated.

Foreseeing that our undertaking, to meet with success, must be adjusted to the Jewish type of mind, it was agreed with a committee of the Guild that in the huge auditorium of Public School No. 147 there should be weekly exhibitions of carefully selected motion pictures, and, in place of the popular music of the theater, the best of vocal and instrumental music should be heard. A guarantee from the Guild made it proper for us to undertake this center; otherwise, many obligations, undertaken long in advance, would have precluded the venture.

It is possible that the audiences came, attracted mainly by the pictures. It is quite possible too that the steady and persistent endeavor to re-create a love of good music, in a race inherently musical, has had its effect. At least we feel sure that, in a very short season, we have done much to revive tastes perverted by the blare of bizarre and blatant vaudeville.

To consider the social aspect of the center, which perhaps should have taken precedence, it may be well remarked that here we reached the very poorest; so poor, in fact, that even the five-cent charge was abolished, and tickets issued admitting a child free with a parent.

Seventeen hundred people on one occasion marks the apogee of attendance.

The appended statement will not indicate the number attending, for the reason that the receipts include both the full and the half charge.

We can conclude this account in no better way than by briefly mentioning the presence of family groups in large numbers.

Part of the small deficit shown in the statement below covers the cost of printed matter advertising the center. In this neighborhood there are no organizations, such as the settlement, through which the fact of the establishment of the center could be spread among the neighbors. Instead, posters had to be placed in the store windows, and, time and again, hand bills and throw-arounds distributed throughout the neighborhood.

We consider this center one of the most interesting we have undertaken, the more so from the degree of co-operation extended to us by the Guild, and the many indications that this energetic group will still be in the field when our season opens next fall. It is to the Social Guild of Williamsburg, that the success of the undertaking is primarily due.

At this time it would seem incumbent upon this Institute to undertake a series of concerts and forums at Public School No. 147, on Sunday afternoons next winter. Evidence of the possibility of such a center abounds in the history of the winter's venture.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES
PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 147.

Receipts	Expenditures
Admissions at two and a half and five cents. \$150.65	Operator, music, print- ing, etc. \$196.55
Deficit 45.90	
<u>\$196.55</u>	

PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 6

The social center idea is taking root deep in the school departments. Public recreation, as at present conducted, and excellent as it is, lacks the relation to the neighborhood which is the *raison d'être* of the social center. Athletics for boys and girls, conducted each evening in the playgrounds of the public school buildings are well indeed. Relate these activities to others, enlisting the mothers and fathers under the same roof, and to the enjoyment of an isolated activity is added the pleasure of participation in an enterprise common to all within the confines of what one regards as home. Thus is the sense of proprietorship developed with its complementary sense of responsibility.

Under the leadership of the principal of Public School No. 6, and that of the Old South Brooklyn Civic League, a series of motion picture exhibitions with music has just ended a successful season at the above named school.

The school staff alternated with a committee of the League in carrying on the exhibition. An intensive method of advertising was adopted and on one occasion no less than fifteen hundred people were in the audience. Those in charge of this center are filled with enthusiasm, enough to insure a use, wider still, of this school building.

Here we conducted the exhibitions of educational reels for the pupils of the school one afternoon each week.

Receipts have about met the operating cost, the booth being presented by the Old South Brooklyn Civic League.

NEXT SEASON

The reopening of the schools named in this report means a full season for 1914-15. Other social centers must, however, be added: A center to cover the territory south of Atlantic Avenue, near Grand Avenue, one to reach the neglected neighborhood around Myrtle Avenue and Taaffe Place, another in the rapidly growing section of Bay Ridge, and still another in the Italian settlement, about Fourteenth Avenue and the Sixties; these neighborhoods make so strong an appeal

that almost involuntarily they add themselves to our program for another fall and winter.

We close with an urgent appeal for funds. It is difficult to think of a mode of helping where the beneficiaries so quickly help themselves. The foregoing tables are evidence of the degree of self help to be expected from the people. It is absolutely essential to the successful continuance of this work that skilled organizers be employed. We appeal to the generosity of the reader for funds to help us establish social centers where the need is greatest. We make our appeal strong in the belief that the people will rally to help themselves, and that the dollars given will go for the purchase of ambition, pride, social and civic consciousness for many and many a decaying neighborhood.

THE SOCIAL CENTERS AND THE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

Supplementary to the foregoing report, it is imperative that the nature of this organization be set forth clearly.

It chanced that at this writing a committee of the Board of Education, together with the Social Welfare Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, is engaged in a classification of school buildings, to determine upon charges for their use, to be assessed upon private groups, such charges to cover cost of heat, light, and janitor service.

Therefore, face to face with the possibility that its work may be seriously crippled, if not checked, the People's Institute of Brooklyn urges upon city officials and the public in general, that it is not a charitable organization; that is, charitable in the sense that are our hospitals and other organizations enjoying city subsidies conditioned upon other funds privately subscribed.

Rather, its prime function is that of experimentation for the city; its immediate activity that of organizing self-supporting and self-perpetuating centers of civic and cultural activities for the people in the public school buildings.

Three seasons of experiment have shown conclusively that by an intelligent study of the neighborhoods selected for such centers, activities of a high order may be introduced, financed entirely by the neighbors without a penny of cost to the city, except that of heat, light, and janitor service; enlisting too the personal efforts of these very neighbors in the carrying on of the social center.

There are few but will grant that self-help is the best of all help; that centers vitalized by the money and brains of the people who use them are of infinitely greater value than the bureaucratic and costly

leisure-time activities manifested by the city; not to mention the tremendous economies they suggest. But in point of fact there is an ethical element of more value involved than even that of self-help. It is that of enlisting the activity of whole neighborhoods, each individual on behalf of his neighbor.

To tax groups for the use of school buildings means that such groups must in turn tax the individuals who use them.

In poor neighborhoods, where the extensive use of the school building is most needed, a charge for its use means that greater fees for the privileges of the center must be exacted; often precluding the establishment of such an institution.

The People's Institute of Brooklyn has stood for a small charge, well within the means of all the people participating in the benefits of a social center to cover the cost of the activities enjoyed by them; and against a charge by the city for the use of the buildings, realizing that these stimulating, democratic neighborhood gathering places, when taxed, can develop only among the comparatively well-to-do.

Emphatically we urge that budgetary provision be made by the city to cover the cost of opening the school buildings to the people. Constructively we urge that the money appropriated by the city in the past for concerts in the school buildings, be diverted in the future to a fund covering the cost of heat, light, and janitor service.

We point again to music of the highest grade which we have given in the public schools without one penny of cost to the city; and we ask the attention of the city authorities to our statement showing the voluntary contributions we have received from our audiences toward the expenses of our concerts.

We urge too that the city appropriations for those of its departments administering public recreation, be carefully studied with a view to determining whether or not part of the sums thus granted might not be used to better advantage in the encouragement of social centers.

We make these suggestions with full appreciation of the value of the work of city departments having to do with recreation. We venture upon them with the sole justification of the sense of the newness of the self-sustaining social center, aware that busy city officials, bearing burdens heavier now than ever before, might easily overlook an innovation not as yet fully within the protection of a city department.

Again we claim the privilege of freedom from taxation for the use of school buildings. Our total contributions, nineteen hundred dollars, are scarcely sufficient to pay the salary of a secretary who serves only part time, and to make the advances necessary to help a centre get upon its

feet. Only the support rendered by the people themselves made possible such a volume of work on so slender a capital.

To those who have watched the growth of the social center movement, the difference in the method employed in Brooklyn and that employed elsewhere will be strikingly apparent. Elsewhere centers have been inaugurated after the intensive organization of selected neighborhoods by a paid secretary devoting all of his time to one neighborhood.

In Brooklyn, the method has been to begin a single activity in a given school, rallying around it a local group, relying upon local initiative to take up and carry on the work started.

Out of this local group is to issue a series of activities responding to every neighborhood need. It is desirable to state that in the experience of this organization, local initiative, with such guidance as we are able to offer, assures the success of the efforts of a local group.

Here it is well to record that in every case the group in charge of a centre has been found perfectly reliable, fully alive to the responsibility for the safe-guarding of city property, and imbued with the enthusiasm and determination presaging broader activities in the future.

Over their activities the local groups welcome the general oversight and co-operation of this Institute. They turn to us, not only for advice, but also to supply concerts for their school centers, motion pictures, lecturers and speakers for their forums.

It is pertinent to emphasize again that it is altogether owing to ours being a "people's" movement, that artists, speakers, etc., so readily enlist with us. Superimpose the bureaucratic, and the spirit of service is sure to fade.

Therefore, while we would welcome closer relations with the Board of Education, we stand for a minimum of supervision.

The general oversight which we have maintained over the development of social centres in Brooklyn, coupled with the energy and responsibility of local groups, amply safeguards the interests of the taxpayers.

GENERAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand	\$264.56
Contributions (not including admissions to concerts and motion picture exhibitions)	1,650.00
	<u>\$1,914.56</u>

Receipts carried forward..... \$1,914.56

DISBURSEMENTS

Deficit Commercial High School.....	\$199.48
" Manual Training High School.....	126.09
" Public School No. 5.....	53.24
" " No. 8.....	7.26
" " No. 147.....	45.90
No deficit Public School No. 6	
No deficit Bushwick High School	
Salaries	800.00
Postage	82.33
General Printing	170.00
Metal Booths for use in Schools.....	216.20
Carfares, incidentals	61.00
Photographs	6.00
Telephone	30.00
Balance on Hand	117.06
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	\$1,914.56 \$1,914.56

THE PEOPLE'S INSTITUTE OF BROOKLYN

EDWARD W. ORDWAY, Chairman

WILLIAM H. CHILDS

MRS. FRANK H. COTHREN

MRS. H. EDWARD DREIER

J. HOWARD MELISH

WILMOT V. TREVOY

J. P. WARBASSE

MRS. HELEN VAN INGEN LEA, Director of Music

LOUIS H. PINK, Treasurer

44 Court St.

SEYMOUR BARNARD, Secretary

176 Nassau St.

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**END OF
TITLE**